

A  
True Reporte of  
the Great overthrow lately  
given unto the Spaniards in their  
infamous attack of BERGEN OP  
ZOAM, by the Dutch



AT LONDON  
Printed by G. E. and are to be sold by John  
Hodgets at his shop in Pauls Church-  
yard. 1685.

*Inf. Ryne*

A

The Great on the way  
to the  
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No. 1 in the



AT LONDON  
Printed by G. E. and the  
Hodgkinson in F. and  
and 1802

*The copie of a Letter sent from  
a Gentleman to his worshipfull friend in  
England, containing a true report of  
the Assault giuen vpon Bergen op  
Zoom by the enemy the 19 of  
September last past, in the  
night. 1605.*



Elbeloued Sir, you shal  
vnderstand by these  
my letters, what course  
the Enemy tooke ve-  
ry lately to assault our  
Towne of *Bergen*.

On Monday beeing  
the ninetene day of  
September last, about 2. of the clocke in the  
night, the Enemy came before the Towne,  
and settled his Forces in a place called *Den-  
Ael*.

There were of them five thousand Foote-

A 3 men

## The copie of a Letter

My Maisters, it had beene better for you to haue gone on pilgrimage, and visited our Lady, Saint *Mary Aculi-collis*, for here the Goodman of the house is at home, and here is meate inough for you ready dressed, here is a little sawce for you, but it is very sharpe, yet if you lacke Beere, we haue inough laid in for you against your comming: those knaues those theecues, your leaders and commaunders haue brought you hither to the slaughter (take heed all your throates be not cut, before you depart.) This was the common note and continuall cries that we sent them, which they might heare very easily eury word.

Whiles we thus laboured to call vnto them, and were busied in discharging our Ordinance vpon them, the enemy had set a Portarte to the gate which was next to the towne, for with a ladder which was an hundred fote longe, (which they could drawe out in length or shorten, as occasion should requirer) they had gotten passage ouer the Flood-gates, when the fire brake out of the Portarte, it came with such a force, that all the hatches flew out of their holds, the gates were shaken open, and the draw-bridge fell downe, I standing aloft, thought that the whole gate had fallen, there

were

## from Bergen op Zoom

were such a number of Tyles and Stones that  
flew in our faces. Then the enemy gave a  
horrible shrowe, to encourage one another  
that they might have entered the Towne  
at one push: but wee immediately came  
downe from the wales with might and maine  
and forestalled them, making all the provision  
we could to hinder their entry, so little did we  
desire to haue their company.

There is another gate in the Towne, which  
is not very strong, wherefore to helpe that,  
we brought and laide to in the greatest peeces  
of tymber that wee could gette, and trees, and  
wagons, and whatsoeuer came first to hand,  
and in the end we digged vp the stones and  
pauements in the streets, and heaped them  
together to hinder their entry.

Our men that tarried yet above, hurled  
downe stones, and cast fire vpon them, and v-  
sed all the meanes they could deuise for de-  
fence, as the present occasion and vrgent ne-  
cessity required.

In the ende, about a quarter of an howre  
after this, they were so scarr'd and frighted,  
that for feare they began to retire: but they  
that had next place vnto the Gate and came  
first thither, had much ado to gette out, for  
they that came after kept them so faste in that

## The copie of a Letter

they could not easily turne backe againe,

In the ende when they saw our resolution, that they were thus manfully resisted by all the means that might bee deuised, they were enforced with their great damage, and losse of many Souldiers, to shift for their liues, and get away.

In the meane time wee drew vp the Bridge againe, and fortified that Gate by which they intended so haue entred with their Horsemen.

When they sawe this, that they had spent all their time here to so little purpose, they made in all haste toward the water side, vnto the place where they had bene before: so did they also to the Northwarde, and manie went with their Bridges and other prouision to the Southwarde.

But when they sawe such good prouision vpon the sodaine, and so great fortifications, both in the Bulwarke, and in the place which is commonly called *De Polder*, beyond all mens expectation, they left their bridge behind them, with their Draggess and other warlike prouision, together with a company of their men slaine to the number of two and twentie, and so flew away.

The

*from Bergen op Zoom*

The Petarte which they had fastened vpon the Gate which is towarde *Satenhimbasse* to blowe it open, brake not, but they had laide Bridges there, by which some of them had gotten passage ouer; But in the meane space, we were so sharpe sette, and came vpon them with such violence, that with the losse of ten men onely, wee enforced them to retire, in more haste then they came thither, and then wee heard it strike foure of the clocke, but before the hindmost of them were gone, it was almost fve of the clocke, such was their amazement, and so little minde they had to tarric one for another.

Think with your selfe nowe good Sir, howe wee were toiled and wearied from two of the clocke till this time, I my selfe was so moiled and wette, as if I had beene but newly drawne out of the Riuer.

But God bee blessed, who alwaies defendeth his people, and hath thus preserved vs from the handes of such bloudie and mercilesse people, and gave such boldnesse and courage vnto our whole Companie, as I would neuer haue beleened it, if that I had not seene it:

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For

## *The copie of a Letter*

For both the Citizens and the Souldiers were so valiant in fight & so resolute to die, if neede had beene, as it was verie strange to behold.

In this exploit the women also plaid their parts, (for the custome of that sexe) for they brought vs great abundance of strawe, which we presently set on fire, and caste downe ouer the wales, whereby we were the better able in the darkenes of the night to discerne the enemy at the wales and about the gate.

Wee were much holpen also by the Caltropes & pitchballs, which we cast abroad & scattered here and there. And this also was a worthy sight, to behold how the women and the children little and great, young and olde, one with another, came to the Wales; where the greatest trouble was, and spake most cheerefully to vs, and asked vs, saying, well done, my heartes: what, doe yee lacke any thing? do ye want any powder, or shotte, or matches? or any thing that may doe you, and our Towne good? and they brought vs also a great number of Baskets full of stones; that every man might haue somewhat to entertaine them withall.

Many also brought vs the strawe that was for the horse litters, when they sawewhat use we had of it: and others brought vs such abundance



*from Bergenop Zoom.*

boundance of Beere, that we were not able to drawe it all out, and drinke it. This kindnesse and liberalitie pleased the Souldiers very well, who courageously cried out continually, and encouraged the Townesmen, saying: be of good cheere, ye honest Citizens; bee of good comfort, and haue a good heart, and then the day began to breake, and we had some lights which we were very glad of.

The enemies, as wee were giuen to vnderstand afterward, had not an end of their troubles thus, but were put to the sword, and spoiled for the space of three daies after.

Nowe blessed be God, we had but one man slaine, and he was a common Souldier: sixe only were wounded, and the most hurt that was done, was done by Gunne powder.

There were of the Enemies slaine three score and ten, wheteof many were of their best and chiefeest men, and principall officers.

The Enemy, as we vnderstood by the husbandmen of the countie, and the intelligence that was giuen to the Gouernour of the towne, carried away sixe and thirty Wagons laden with dead men, and such as were wounded in the attempt: so that we may bee certainly assured that hee lost then at the least a thousand men.

browl

B 3

When

### *The copie of a Letter*

When the Souldiers of their side heard that they were determined to make his attempt upon the Towne of *Berger*, they had much ado to drawe them to the Towne, they were loath to come there fearing their welcome at last for their better inducement, they gaue our speeches, that the greatest part of the Towne was confederate with them, and would presently ioyne, but in the end, the event followe otherwise.

We doe not as yet certainly knowe how manie of their heades and chiefe commanders of the enemy are slaine, they haue left behinde them many of their Ladders, Bridges and Wagons couered with Leather or Canvasse, and much other such baggage.

There came a messenger but euen now vnto the towne, who bringeth newes that their Generall hath both his legges stroken off with a peece of Ordnance; and that many of their principal officers are either slaine or wounded.

Some of them were drinen into the water, and so drowned: So that as yet wee haue no certaine intelligence what number of the are slaine, but so manie as wee can finde in several places, dispersed, amount to the number of three score and ten.

The Governour of the Towne gaue com-  
sword

